

**Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 16, 2022
6:00 P.M. VIA Zoom
Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85045099960?pwd=NGVvY1BNU2NTamZaVWFxeC9XeHc5QT09>

**Meeting ID: 850 4509 9960
Passcode: 711063**

Members Present: Kimberly Roth, Rebecca Longvall, Donald Brown & David Cowell

Absent: Ryan Ordnung

Kimberly Roth opened the meeting at 6:04 PM

AGENDA

**6:00 Cunningham Equities (Jack's Mill) – ANRAD Application
(Continuation from March 16, 2022)**

James Cunningham opened the meeting for Cunningham Equities reviewing the supplemental Historic Information for ANRAD.

Cunningham Equities, LLC has filed an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) to confirm boundary of jurisdiction Wetland Resource Areas (i.e., boundary of Bank to Counterpane Brook) and to confirm that the entire subject property located at 474 Main Street (Assessor's Map 85 Lot 297) in Clinton, Massachusetts qualifies as an Historic Mill Complex, as defined by 310 CMR 10.04, and thus is exempt from requirements for the Riverfront Area (310 CMR 10.58) in accordance with 310 CMR 10.58(6)(k). After the site visit performed on February 23rd, 2022 by the Clinton Conservation Commission, Cunningham Equities has worked with local historical society and state-wide historical professionals to provide evidence which provides the outline and footprint of the applicable Historical Mill Complex at 474 Main Street.

James reviewed the packet with supporting evidence of relevance to Historic Mill Complex definition, historic picture of cleared area used for parking and driving with wheel-tracks in the cleared area used for parking and driving, historic plans depicting horse and carriage access to the utility pump house to carriage, stables, barns and railroad siding, overlay of existing conditions and historic utilities, driveways and parking areas and lastly the summary and conclusion with supporting evidence

Maureen Cavanaugh (PAL) went through the aerial photos shared on James Cunningham's screen to show the wheel tracks indicating driveways with clearing from 1920 and 1963.

James Cunningham asked the Commission for questions they may have.

Kimberly Roth asked about the aerials provided and specifically focused on the timeframe 1946. She mentioned there is a gap with no evidence of stables or tire tracks during that period.

James explained that during the timeframe of 1946 the stables were no longer needed. The property changed from housing horse and carriages to the evolution of driving cars.

Kimberly asked for James to provide evidence during 1946 that the property was used for parking.

Rebecca Longvall is in agreement with Kimberly about the lack of evidence in 1946. She suggests that James provide an aerial or other forms of evidence of that area during that specific time frame when asking the Commission to consider an exemption.

Donald Brown questioned the size of the parking lot based off the property size and how many the applicant was looking to fit on the property?

Kimberly said the footprint of the building has since changed overtime and it's supposed to stay the same from pre to post when dealing with Historic Mill Complex. Kimberly mentioned there has been an evolution of that footprint with different buildings and parking spaces.

The Clinton Commission is willing to give exemptions but not on the whole parcel.

James Cunningham said they need direction how to move forward with the project.

Kimberly suggested looking at the Riverfront Development Act.

Selectman, Eddie Devault asked about the gap period in 1946 and how the applicant is going to prove the date in question. Eddie mentioned he would like to see the commission work with the developer to come to some sort of agreement to help James along the process.

Rebecca Longvall said that they are willing to work with the applicant. She brought up the site visit on Wednesday, February 23rd, where the commission and the Cunningham's went to walk the property. Rebecca stated that their Wetlands Scientist could have attended to ask questions prior to the March 16th meeting. Rebecca also stated that they are willing to hold a special meeting to help move things along for the Cunningham's.

Selectman, Eddie Devault said you can't fault James Cunningham for trying to get as many exemptions on this project as he can. He wants to help him work towards that due to his time crunch. Eddie also questioned the special meeting process. He explained that boards can have meetings at any time without them being "special" meetings.

Rebecca Longvall said every project is treated the same and there is a specific process that needs to be followed.

Andrea Kendall LEC, followed up on the site visit with her report. She looked at soils and the brook. LEC identified and delineated the boundaries of BVW and Bank-MAHW at 474 Main Street in Clinton, Massachusetts. These Wetland Resource Areas are protected under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c. 131, s. 40) and its implementing Regulations (310 CMR 10.00), and the Federal Clean Water Act (“CWA”; 33 U.S.C. 1344, s. 404) and its Regulations (33 CFR and 40 CFR). Any new proposed alteration within the Wetland Resource Areas or the associated 100-foot Buffer Zone may require the filing of a permit application with the Clinton Conservation Commission and MassDEP.

Rebecca Longvall said there is an area of concern east of the pump house close to the metal building and would like to view Andrea Kendall’s report for further information.

The Commission and James Cunningham both agreed to a special hearing before the next scheduled Conservation Commission meeting on April 20th.

James Cunningham requests continuation on the ANRAD application for Cunningham Equities and will work on providing addition information and aerial photos during the time period of 1946.

Rebecca Longvall made a motion to grant the continuation of the ANRAD application for Cunningham Equities, Donald Brown made a motion to second, all in favor with a (4-0) vote.

6:15 Informal
Cameron Ciesluk
22 Harris Street

Cameron Ciesluk is looking to pull a building permit for his screened in porch. He had questions for the Commission regarding the porch and its relation to the wetlands and buffer zone.

Rebecca Longvall said given the location to the porch and being built over existing lawn, she wouldn’t have a problem with it.

The Commission advised Cameron to fill out a Request for Determination of Applicability to have on file.

6:30 Rauscher Farm Management Subcommittee

Gloria Parkinson gave the following updates regarding the RF Pollination System, Loosetrife containment approach using biological containment methods in the form of beetles. Gloria also spoke to the remaining budget and breakdown for FY22.

Rauscher Farm Pollination System; Proposed Descriptor Name Change

The RFMSC proposes calling the project: The Rauscher Farm Pollinator Meadow with informational materials to explain that the project is based on growing a pollination system of native plants only that enhances diversity and has ramifications on Nature’s food chain. Since

several donors have given or pledged to give to the project, the RFMSC considers all donors should be equitably recognized and the name of the pollinator meadow should not be in a single donor's name.

Loosestrife Containment Update

Beetle order of 15 cartons confirmed with Integrated Weed Control (IWC). Placing an order doesn't commit to ultimately purchasing beetles but given IWC cannot guarantee how many beetles IWC will be able to breed this year, and given demand outpaces supply, confirming an order for Rauscher Farm is prudent.

Proposed RF FY 2022 Budget

The Rauscher Farm allocation of the Clinton Conservation Commission's FY 2022 appropriated \$7,500 budget is a sum of up to \$5,000. Below is RFMSC's detailed expenditure proposal for FY 22 for review by the Commission.

***Note:** The major expense is the purchase of *Galerucella californiensis* beetles for the biocontrol of Loosestrife at several locations on Rauscher Farm. Although an order has been placed with Integrated Weed Control (IWC) for 15 cartons of beetles (105 beetles per carton at a cost of \$150 per carton) plus shipping, how much of the order will be filled is unknown until around mid-May. If the total requested order is not available at that time, there may be available funding for other RF projects before the end of FY 22 funding expires on June 30, 2022.*

- 1. Purchase of 15 cartons and shipping of *Galerucella californiensis* beetles from Integrated Weed Control (not to exceed) **\$2,500.00***
- 2. Purchase of a picnic table that meets ADA standards and includes wheelchair accessibility at both ends (The Park Catalog) (20 week delivery) **\$1,419.00***
- 3. Rauscher Farm Electricity **\$80.00***
- 4. RF Pollinator Meadow expenses (equipment: protective wildlife fencing, rain barrel, watering equipment, etc.): **\$600**; some native plants: **\$400** = **\$1,000.00***
- 5. Farmhouse plumbing for pollinator meadow: If services not donated will need to come out of items above **\$0***

FY 2022 TOTAL= \$4,999.00

Gloria mentioned that the Management Subcommittee is also planning several upcoming TBD events and will keep the Commission updated.

Kimberly Roth said the budget is broken down clearly and she has no issues with the current budgeted items.

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes – March 16, 2022

The Commission will hold a formal meeting on the Rauscher Farm budget at the next month's meeting.

Public hearing was ended at 7:30 PM

Next Conservation Commission Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2022

Meeting Minutes taken by Ryan Rouillard